FOREST PRODUCTS
Project Fact Sheet

CORRIM II CONSORTIUM PROPOSAL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE RESEARCH PRIORITIES- WOOD PRODUCTS

BENEFITS

- New information on the environmental performance of wood as a renewable resource
- Multi-disciplinary support from the scientific community
- Policies to help address issues such as sustainable development, waste management, atmospheric emissions, et al.
- Expert advice to help characterize impacts of competing materials
- Database useful to end-users in various disciplines

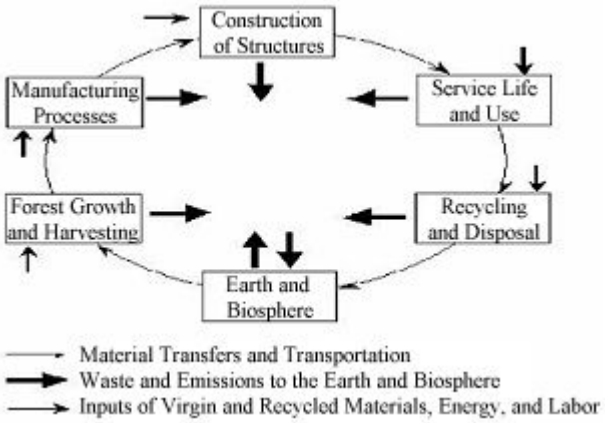
APPLICATIONS

The final product of a scientific database will be used by numerous groups to evaluate the use of renewable wood products for various applications.

New Consortium To Develop a Research Agenda for Renewable Forestry Resources

This project will draw on the expertise of many scientists in renewable resources who have formed a consortium to update and extend the original work of the Committee on Renewable Resources for Industrial Materials (CORRIM). Twenty years ago, CORRIM prepared a report for the President's Science and Technology Policy Office that advocated minimizing the environmental impacts of materials production by reducing energy use and using renewable resources. The recent vision document of the Forest Products industry puts a high priority on developing information on the environmental performance of wood products. Numerous scientists have also recognized the need to develop research priorities for renewable wood materials.

The CORRIM II consortium of top U.S. scientists will develop previously unavailable, quantifiable information on the environmental performance of wood as a renewable resource. This information will be essential for effective public policymaking and corporate planning as demands increase for improved land management practices, reduced atmospheric emissions, land and raw material conservation, and pollution prevention. The database produced through this study will be accessible to a variety of end-users.



OFFICE OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES
ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Goal: To provide a database of scientifically based information that will allow users to evaluate renewable wood materials, provide a framework for comparing wood and non-wood products in similar applications, serve as a source of information for various end-users, and be backed by an organization that allows database users to enlist the skills of scientists and obtain peer reviews.

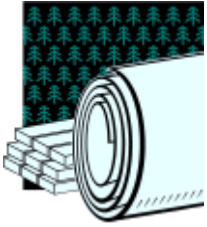
The consortium will prepare a research plan to identify a number of "research modules" (small projects) that together will account for the environmental and economic impacts of wood processing. Panels of technical experts will develop research agendas for four processing stages where these impacts can be measured: Resource Management, Materials Processing, Construction Systems, and Consumption/Occupancy. The technical experts will also evaluate issues associated with the Disposal and Recycling stage.

The CORRIM database and information source will enable decision-makers to make consistent comparisons and systematically characterize the options for improving environmental performance. By comparing across alternatives, the analyses will reveal marginal costs that contribute to marginal environmental changes and other economic impacts. This type of analysis also provides projections of future environmental performance. Examples include:

- An assessment of how changes in forest culture and wood use affect forest health and the nation's energy requirements.
- The likely impact of mandated carbon emission reductions, carbon taxes, or tradable permit systems on forest culture and forest product use.
- Analyses of the environmental performance of wood products and wood using systems, including alternatives for improving energy efficiency, carbon sequestration, recycling, reuse, and sustainability with tradeoffs between environmental and economic performance measures.

PROGRESS & MILESTONES

- Develop consistent measuring standards so that data from the various modular projects can be integrated.
- The final product is a database for use by architects, builders, manufacturers, forest land managers, energy analysts, environmental policymakers, economists, and corporate strategists.
- The CORRIM research plan is complete and a copy is available from the home page at http://weber.u.washington.edu/~blippke/CORRIM.html. Efforts are underway to solicit funding for the individual research modules.



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